



JANET NAPOLITANO
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ARIZONA
Office of Homeland Security
www.homeland.az.gov



FRANK F. NAVARRETE
DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, May 5, 2006

NEWS RELEASE
Media Contact:
Julie Mason
602-542-7006

Six Emergency Exercises Test Arizona's Disaster Response

Tabletop Exercises Complement Arizona's Homeland Security Exercise and Emergency Response Program

PHOENIX – The State of Arizona is holding a series of large-scale disaster training tabletop exercises in Maricopa County to address the ability of cities in the region to prevent, respond to and recover from a terrorist attack. This series of six, one-day exercises began in April and will run through June, and is being paid for with funding from the State's portion of FY2005 Urban Area Strategic Initiative (UASI) grant, part of Arizona's federal homeland security grant program.

Each of these six tabletop exercises simulate high explosive and chemical disasters in the Phoenix metropolitan area. A total of 720 emergency responders representing 45 public safety, emergency management and emergency support services agencies will participate.

The goal is to test plans and practice coordination, capabilities, and problem-solving in disaster preparedness and response, enhancing the ability to respond to real world events.

"Arizona's emergency preparedness and response is recognized as one of the best in the nation," said Frank Navarrete, Director of Arizona's Office of Homeland Security and Division of Emergency Management. "A key strength is our exercise program, where first responders simulate real life scenarios to prepare for real life disasters."

Arizona's four-year training and exercise program is part of the State's homeland security and emergency preparedness strategy. In 2005, the Arizona Division of Emergency Management held 145 training sessions, training 3,000 first responders and emergency managers, in subject areas including incident management and emergency response to terrorism. In 2005, ADEM conducted three full-scale, one functional, and seven tabletop preparedness exercises throughout the state.

###